

Friday, September 22, 2006

Vice President Dick Cheney Ceremonially Swears In NTSB Chairman

Vice President Dick Cheney administered the oath of office to Mark V. Rosenker as the 11th Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board on Tuesday, September 19 at the NTSB Board Room and Conference Center.

"The President and I are very pleased that Mark has accepted this opportunity to continue to serve the nation. He's an experienced public servant, an outstanding manager, a leader who knows how to set a goal and to get the job done, to work until the job is done," said Vice President Cheney.

With his wife Heather at his side holding the Bible, Chairman Rosenker accepted the call of duty to lead the agency known as the premier accident investigative body in the world. In the last five years, he has received six presidential appointments, nominations, or distinctions.

"I am committed to do everything within my power to ensure that the decisions I make and the votes that I cast are done in a spirit of maintaining and improving safety for the traveling public," Chairman Rosenker said.

In attendance were Chairman Rosenker's family, Acting Secretary Cino, NTSB Board members, modal administrators, distinguished guests, friends and NTSB staff.



Vice President Dick Cheney administering the oath of office to Chairman Rosenker and his wife, Heather Rosenker, holding the Bible.

NTSB Vice Chairman Sworn In

Robert L. Sumwalt III was sworn in as Vice Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board on Thursday, September 14. Congressman Joe Wilson made remarks at the ceremony and United States Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) administered the oath of office. During his remarks, Vice Chairman Sumwalt spoke of his passion for safety and his admiration of the dedicated work of the NTSB staff. He gave the staff his commitment to use his passion to further the mission of the Safety Board.

Vice Chairman Sumwalt was joined by his wife Anne, and daughter Mackenzie, as well as his parents and sister for the occasion.

Vice Chairman Sumwalt, his wife Anne, and United States Senator Jim DeMint administering the oath of office.

President intends to nominate Steven R. Chealander to be a Member of the NTSB

President Bush intends to nominate Steven R. Chealander, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, for the remainder of a five year term expiring December 31, 2007. Mr. Chealander currently serves as Manager of Flight Operations Efficiency at American Airlines Headquarters. Prior to this, he served as Manager of Flight Safety-Internal Evaluation Compliance at American Airlines. Earlier in his career, he served as a Colonel in the United States Air Force. Mr. Chealander received his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California.

NTSB Hosts Public Forum on Motorcycle Safety

On September 12 and 13, 2006, the National Transportation Safety Board hosted a Public Forum on Motorcycle Safety at the NTSB Board Room and Conference Center in Washington, D.C. The goal of the forum was to gather information about motorcycling, ongoing safety research and initiatives, and safety countermeasures that may reduce the likelihood of motorcycle accidents and fatalities. Board Member Deborah A. P. Hersman chaired the forum, and was assisted by staff from the Office of Research and Engineering, the Office of Highway Safety, and the Office of Safety Recommendations and Communications.

In her opening remarks, Member Hersman noted that increases in fatalities among motorcycle riders have far exceeded that of any other form of transportation. Last year, 4,553 motorcyclists died in crashes, accounting for more than 10 percent of all motor vehicle crash fatalities. The number of motorcycle fatalities in 2005 is more than double that of a decade ago, and while part of this increase is due to the increasing popularity of motorcycling, the number of fatalities has outpaced the increase in ridership.

The forum was comprised of six technical panels: 1) trends and safety statistics, 2) vehicle design, 3) rider protective equipment, 4) training and licensing, 5) public education and awareness, and 6) rider impairment. In each panel, experts from government, research organizations, manufacturers, and industry gave brief presentations, followed by questions from NTSB staff, Member Hersman, and the audience. In a final panel focused on future directions in motorcycle safety, several leaders in the motorcycling community and in government gave opinions about what is needed now and in the future to reverse the rising trend of motorcycle fatalities. The forum also featured several exhibits and demonstrations, including a live deployment of a motorcycle airbag.

A webcast of the NTSB Public Forum on Motorcycle Safety is currently available at the forum website, http://www.nts.gov/events/symp_motorcycle_safety/symp_motorcycle_safety.htm.



Brenda Yager Named Director of Government Affairs

Chairman Mark V. Rosenker has selected Brenda Yager to be the Director of Government Affairs for the NTSB. Ms. Yager has extensive experience having served in Congressional Relations positions at the US Department of State, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the State of Illinois. She also served as Committee Counsel and Legislative Assistant to Congressman Tom Railsback. Ms. Yager holds a BA from Augustana College, an MA from Brown University, and a JD from DePaul University.

